



8

Domestic Girlfriend

KEI SASUGA

D O M E X G

Domestic Girlfriend

8

D O M E
G I R L

KEI SASUGA

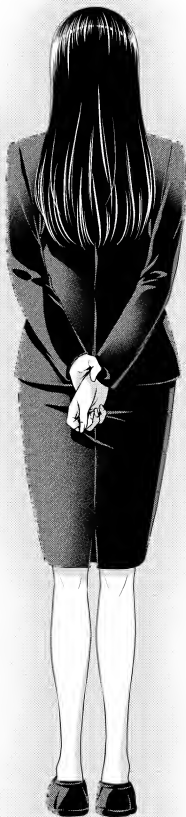
D O M E G I R L

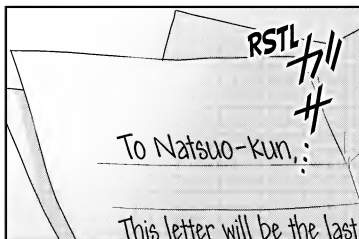
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CHAPTER 65: BREAKUP

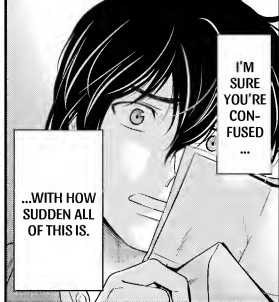




PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME.

THIS LETTER
WILL BE
THE LAST.





...COULDN'T
BRING
MYSELF TO
TELL YOU.

I JUST
...



AND PLEASE
DON'T TRY
TO FIND ME.

MY ONLY
HOPE...

THAT'S
WHY, YOU
ABSOLUTELY
CANNOT TELL
ANYONE ELSE
ABOUT US.

IN
EXCHANGE
FOR MY
LEAVING...

...IS THAT
YOU FORGET
ABOUT ME
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE,

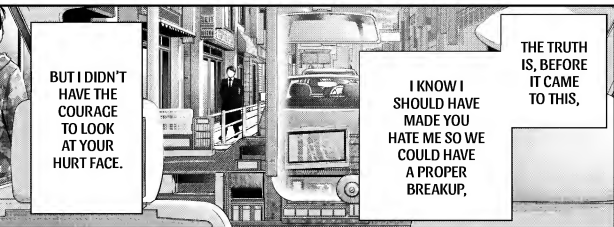
GET INTO
COLLEGE
WITHOUT
A HITCH,

...OUR
RELATIONSHIP
WON'T BE
MADE
PUBLIC.



THAT'S
ALL.

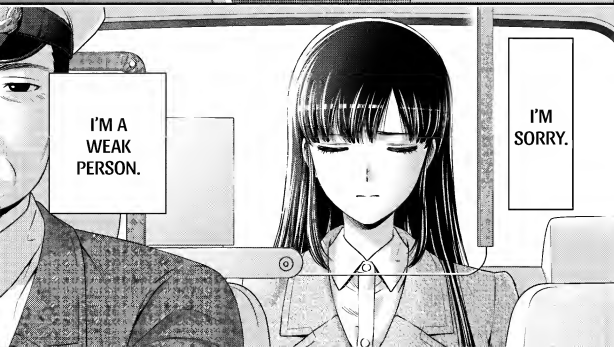
AND MAKE
YOUR DREAM
OF BECOMING
A NOVELIST
COME TRUE.



BUT I DIDN'T
HAVE THE
COURAGE
TO LOOK
AT YOUR
HURT FACE.

I KNOW I
SHOULD HAVE
MADE YOU
HATE ME SO WE
COULD HAVE
A PROPER
BREAKUP,

THE TRUTH
IS, BEFORE
IT CAME
TO THIS,



I'M A
WEAK
PERSON.

I'M
SORRY.



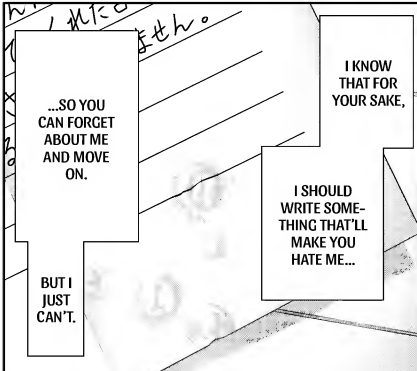
IN BOTH
THE GOOD
AND BAD
TIMES,

DURING
THE THREE
MONTHS
WE WERE
TOGETHER,

I COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
HAPPIER.



THANK
YOU.



...SO YOU
CAN FORGET
ABOUT ME
AND MOVE
ON.

I KNOW
THAT FOR
YOUR SAKE,

I SHOULD
WRITE SOME-
THING THAT'LL
MAKE YOU
HATE ME...

BUT I
JUST
CAN'T.



YOUR
WORDS,

EVEN AS I
WRITE THIS,

I CAN'T
STOP
REMEM-
BERING
EVERY-
THING
ABOUT
YOU.

YOUR
SMILE
...

THE
SCENT
OF YOUR
HAIR,

YOUR
WARM
HANDS,

I LOVE
YOU.

I'M
SORRY.

I LOVE YOU...







I HEARD
BITS FROM
FUMI-KUN.

DON'T
WORRY, MY
LIPS ARE
SEALED.

YOU
KNEW?

HUH?

I TAKE IT THAT
MEANS THE
SCHOOL FOUND
OUT ABOUT
HER AND
NATSUO-CHAN'S
RELATIONSHIP.



BUT SHE
DIDN'T TELL
HER WHERE
SHE WAS
TRANSFER-
RING TO OR
HER NEW
ADDRESS.

I GUESS
SHE CALLED
MOM ONCE,

NO
...

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA
WHERE
YOUR
SISTER
WENT?



HOW'S
NATSUO-
CHAN
DOING?

SO,



HE DIDN'T
COME HOME
THE NIGHT
OF THE
CLOSING
CEREMONY.

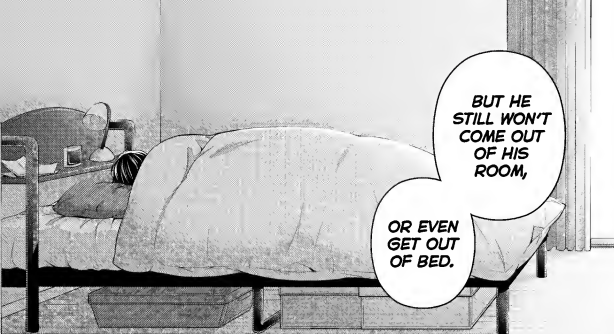
WHEN I
WENT
LOOKING
FOR HIM,
I FOUND
HIM IN
HINA-NEE'S
EMPTY
APARTMENT.

IT'S
BEEN A
WEEK
SINCE
THEN,



SO
NATSUO-
CHAN
WOULDN'T
CHASE
AFTER
HER,
HUH?

SHE TOOK
THE BEST
COURSE OF
ACTION AT
THE TIME
FOR HIS
FUTURE.



BUT HE
STILL WON'T
COME OUT
OF HIS
ROOM,

OR EVEN
GET OUT
OF BED.



WELL...I
CAN'T SAY
I'M SUR-
PRISED.

IT SOUNDS
LIKE HE WAS
REALLY IN
LOVE WITH
HER.

HE
BARELY
EATS,
TOO...



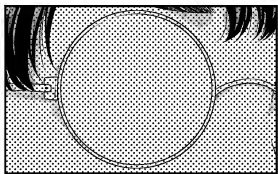
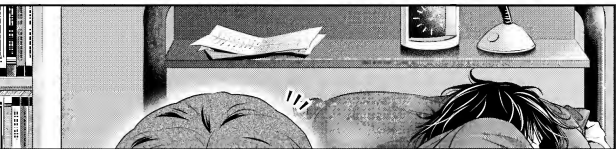
TO BE
HON-
EST,

I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW WHAT
I SHOULD
SAY TO HIM
...

IT WAS ALL SO
SUDDEN I'M
STILL TRYING
TO PARSE
EVERYTHING,
TOO.









DON'T
KEEP
PRETEND-
ING TO BE
ASLEEP!

AT LEAST
ANSWER
ME, JACK-
ASS!

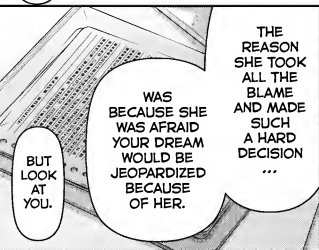
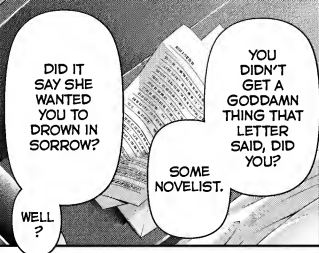


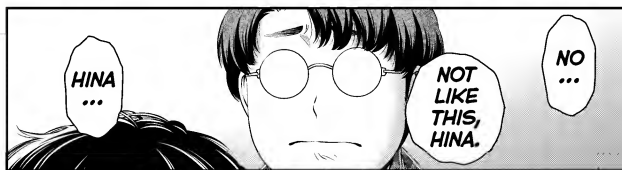
GET
OVER
HERE.



BY
THE WAY,
YOUR
HAIR
REEKS.

YOU
HAVEN'T
EVEN BEEN
BATHING?







I WAS
HOPING...

YOU'D LET
ME TAKE A
BREAK FROM
THE WEEKLY
SHORT
STORIES.

UM
...

SORRY TO
BOTHER
YOU
DURING
BREAK.

IN-
STEAD,

PLEASE
LET ME
WRITE A
LENGTHIER
ONE.

THAT
...

IS
ENTIRELY
UP TO
YOU.

...

I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO MOVE
ON...

...UNTIL
I DO.

CHAPTER 66:
WRITHING





HI!
CLACK

I'M
HOME.



YES.

HOW'S
NATSUO-
KUN
DOING?

LONG DAY?
YOU'RE
AWFULLY
LATE
TONIGHT.

STILL
COOPED
UP IN HIS
ROOM.



YOU
KNOW,

I SEE
...

I STOPPED
BY THE
PRIVATE
INVESTIGA-
TOR'S
OFFICE ON
THE WAY
HOME.

WELCOME
HOME,
TSUKIKO-
SAN.



THEY'VE
TRACKED
DOWN
HINA.



I'M
JUST GLAD
TO KNOW
SHE'S
SAFE.

SHE RENTED
AN APARTMENT
NEAR HER NEW
SCHOOL.

YES.

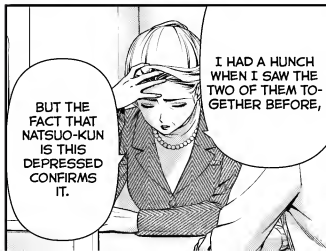
RE-
REALLY
?!



I STILL
HAVE A
HARD TIME
BELIEVING
IT.

DO YOU
REALLY
THINK NAT-
SUO AND
HINA-SAN
WERE...?

...



BUT THE
FACT THAT
NATSUO-KUN
IS THIS
DEPRESSED
CONFIRMS
IT.

I HAD A HUNCH
WHEN I SAW THE
TWO OF THEM TO-
GETHER BEFORE,



I THINK IT
WOULD BE FOR
THE BEST...

YEAH
...

IF WE DON'T
TELL THE
KIDS FOR
NOW, ESPE-
CIALLY NOT
NATSUO-KUN.



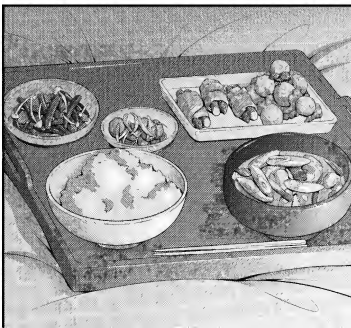
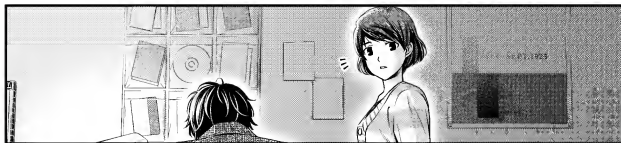


SURE
...



WANT
SOME
COCOA?

I PUT A LITTLE
GINGER IN,
SO IT SHOULD
WARM YOU UP.





SO,
AMATERASU'S
CAVE*
REMAINS
SHIT, HUH?

HMM
...



*SEE I/L NOTES.



IT'S LIKE HE'S
FORGETTING
TO EVEN EAT
OR SLEEP.

HE MIGHT
COLLAPSE AT
THIS RATE...

...BUT I GET
THE FEELING
HE'S PAINTING
HIMSELF INTO
A CORNER.



SAY,
RUI-RUI.

CAN YOU
DO SOME-
THING
FOR ME?

THAT DOOFUS
GETS REALLY
BAD TUNNEL
VISION WHEN
HE'S ABSORBED
IN SOMETHING.



OH?

BUT HE'S
ACTUALLY
DOING
SOMETHING
ASIDE FROM
LAYING
IN BED ALL
DAY, RIGHT?

I'D
CALL
THAT
PROG-
RESS.

WAY
TO GO,
FUMI-
KUN.

YEAH,
THAT'S
GOOD
AND ALL
...







YEAH, I
BET THAT
GETUP IS
USEFUL FOR
BREAKING
UP FIGHTS
...

HEY,
BOSS!
LONG
TIME NO
SEE.

YOO-
HOO,
GRAMPS.
HOW'S
THE OLD
PLUMB-
ING?



SHE
MAKES
AN EX-
CEPTION
FOR ME.

CHEESE

THE
OWNER
IS A
REGULAR
AT MY
STORE.

MAA-CHAN IS
SOMETHING LIKE
A BOUNCER FOR
THE SHOPPING
DISTRICT.



SO I
KNOW JUST
ABOUT ALL
OF THEM.

THE
CUSTOM-
ERS HERE
ARE ALL
LOCALS,

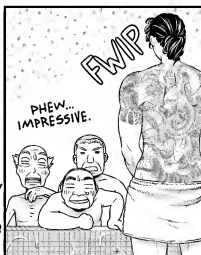


STILL AS
CHISELED
AS EVER
I SEE.

AH,
SHOVE
IT, YOU
GEE-
ZERS.

DID'JA
COME
FISHIN'
FOR
GUYS?

HEY, IF IT
AIN'T MR.
L'AMANT
HIMSELF!





UMM
...

LIAR.

REMINDS
ME OF MINE
BACK IN
THE DAY...

WHEW...
LIKE ONE
OF THE
GODS
INCARNATE,
AIN'T IT?

WHY
A BATH
HOUSE,
ANYWAY?



IS A
NICE,
LONG
BATH
...

SO, I
FIGURED
WHAT YOU
MIGHT
NEED...

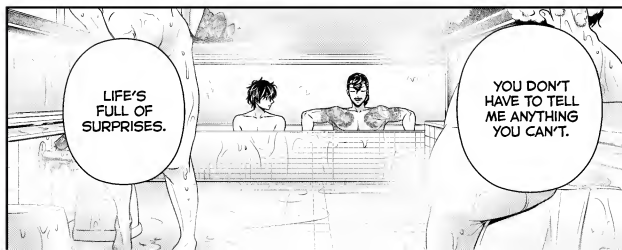
...TO
REFRESH
AND GET
YOUR HEAD
IN ORDER.



WELL,

I DON'T
KNOW
THE FULL
STORY,

BUT I HEARD
YOU'VE BEEN
PRETTY DOWN
IN THE DUMPS
LATELY.



LIFE'S
FULL OF
SURPRISES.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO TELL
ME ANYTHING
YOU CAN'T.



GROWING
UP IN THAT
ENVIRON-
MENT,

I NEVER
IMAGINED
I'D END UP
CUTTING
TIES WITH MY
PARENTS AND
DISOWNING
THE FAMILY.



...

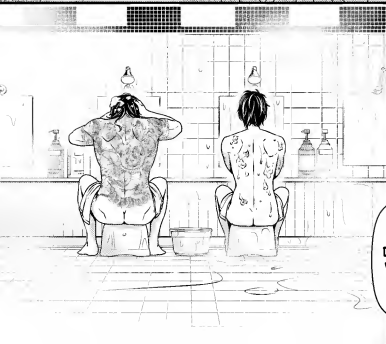
I COME
FROM A
LONG-
STANDING
YAKUZA
FAMILY.



HE WAS
STEAMING
AND
CRYING
AT THE
SAME
TIME.

MY OLD MAN
WAS BOILING
MAD WHEN I
TOLD HIM I
WAS LEAVING
THE GROUP.

AS THE
ELDEST SON,
I KNEW I WAS
RAISED WITH
SPECIAL CARE
TO INHERIT
THE BUSINESS
SOMEDAY.



Z
S
H
H

HONESTLY, I
THOUGHT HE
WAS GONNA
KILL ME
FOR SURE.

WHY
DON'T WE
WASH UP
NOW?



I EVEN
THOUGHT
ABOUT
HAVING THIS
TATTOO
REMOVED.



THAT
WAS
WHEN
...

I NO
LONGER
HAD TO
HIDE MY
PREFER-
ENCES.

I COULD
DO ANY JOB
I WANTED TO
AND ASSOCIATE
WITH WHOEVER
I WANTED TO AS
JUST ANOTHER
REGULAR
PERSON.



AFTER
I LEFT,
I WAS
FREE.



...I
RECEIVED
WORD THAT
MY OLD
MAN HAD
DIED.



WHEN I
RECALLED
THE LOOK
ON HIS
FACE THE
DAY I LEFT,

AND
THOUGHT
ABOUT HOW
HE MUST
HAVE FELT,
I COULDN'T
BRING
MYSELF TO
GO TO HIS
FUNERAL.

AP-
PRENTLY,
IT WAS
CANCER.

A PRETTY
ANTICLIMACTIC
END FOR A
MOB BOSS,
HUH?



...!

THAT
WAS SIX
YEARS
AFTER
I LEFT
HOME.



LIFE WILL
THROW ALL
SORTS OF
THINGS
AT YOU.

UNTIL
THE
DAY
YOU
DIE,

NATSUO-
CHAN.



NOR CAN
YOU ERASE
THE PAST.

YOU
CAN'T
TURN
BACK
TIME,

OR WHAT
YOU GO
THROUGH,

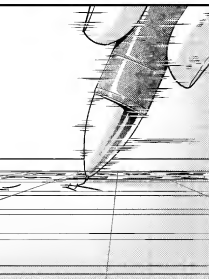
NO
MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS,



ALL
YOU CAN
DO IS
CARRY
ON,

SHOULDERING
EVERYTHING
AS A PART
OF YOU.





THE
SPOTLIGHT

WORDS,
STACKED LIKE
A RAINBOW

AWESTRUCK
BY ITS BEAUTY

RUNNING
AT FULL
SPEED,

WHILE
FEELING
MYSELF
PULLED
DEEPER
INTO THE
ALMOST
PAINFULLY
DARK
VOID,

AS I
PASSED
THE
USUAL
PATCH
OF
GINGKO
TREES

LIGHT
SEEPED IN
LITTLE BY
LITTLE

SEEMED
TO SCREAM
"SPRING"

AS IF
I WAS
PUNCHED
IN THE
FACE

WAS ALL
THAT
ANSWERED
THE HAIL
OF BLOWS.

WITH SIX
UNSETTLING
PILLARS,
EACH
POINTING
DIFFERENT
DIRECTIONS

POURED
IN WITH
THE SOUND
OF LOOSE
EARTH

I BOARDED
THE BUS
AND CALLED
OUT TO
HER...

THE RAIN
ENVELOPED
THEM LIKE
A VEIL

APPEARED
TO BE
GLARING

ACCUSINGLY

HER SMILE
ETHEREAL
AS THE
HEAVENS

SMILING,
SHE CLAPPED HER
HANDS ASSUREDLY

CONCEALED
EVEN MY
TRUE
FEELINGS

HER
PRONGED
WORDS,
AS IF
TO RAKE
UP THE
LITTERED
SIGHS

POSITIVE
SHE'D
RESPOND
WITH AN
UNADULTERATED
SMILE

THE WATER
BROUGHT
DOWN THE
PAPER
AIRPLANE

THE
SOUND
OF RAIN
BATTING
AGAINST

ITS SOMEHOW
NOSTALGIC HUE

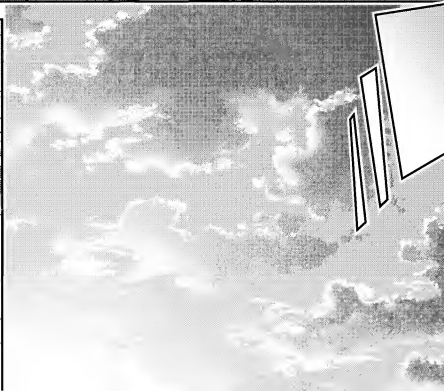
THE SUNSET
REFLECTED
IN HER EYES
APPEARED
DIM AND
DEPRESSING.

THE
CAR
NDOM

ONLY
MEMORIES
LINGER
IN BOLD
PROTEST

THOUGH
SEEMINGLY
THE SAME,
TIME
CRAWLED
BY







CHAPTER 67: A NEW YEAR WITHOUT HINA





I
THOUGHT
...

I'D MAKE
ZONI*...

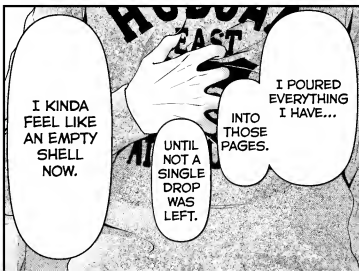
AH.

I LOST
TRACK OF
THE DAYS
AND ONLY
AND DIDN'T
REALIZE IT
WAS NEW
YEAR'S UNTIL
I TURNED
ON THE TV
JUST NOW.



MORN-
ING.

YOU'RE
UP
EARLY.



I KINDA
FEEL LIKE
AN EMPTY
SHELL
NOW.

UNTIL
NOT A
SINGLE
DROP
WAS LEFT.

I POURED
EVERYTHING
I HAVE...
INTO
THOSE
PAGES.



DID
YOU
...

...FINISH
IT?



SURE
...!



I DON'T
KNOW IF
IT'S GOOD
OR NOT,

BUT
WOULD
YOU MIND
GIVING IT
A READ,
TOO?



SO IT'LL
HAVE TO
BE AFTER
THAT,
BUT...

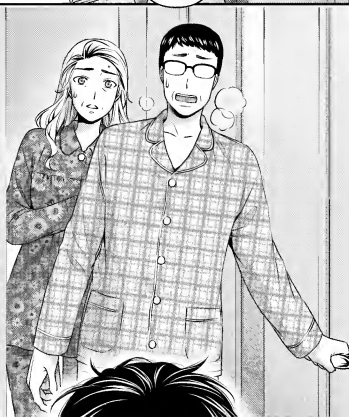
I'M
GONNA HAVE
KIRIYA-SENSEI
LOOK AT IT
FIRST,



DAD
...
TSUKIKO-
SAN...

WE
HEARD
...

...YOU
GUYS
TALK-
ING.





I'M
REALLY
SORRY
...

...FOR
MAKING
YOU
WORRY.



AT
ANY
RATE,

I REALIZED
THINGS
COULDN'T GO
ON THE WAY
THEY WERE.

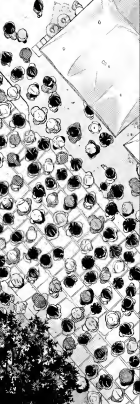


ARE
YOU
...

...OKAY
NOW?







AND
PLEASE
DON'T TRY
TO FIND
ME.

...

YEAH
...



I CAN'T HELP
BUT THINK,
"I WONDER
IF HINA-NEE'S
HERE."

EVEN THOUGH
THERE'S NO
WAY SHE'D
COME TO A
SHRINE THIS
CLOSE TO
HOME.

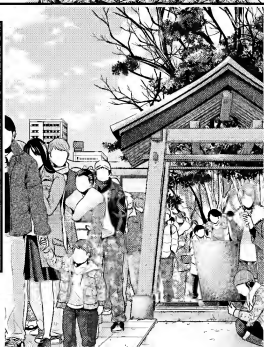
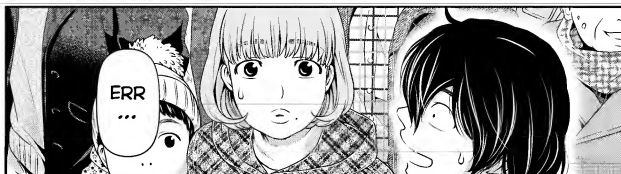
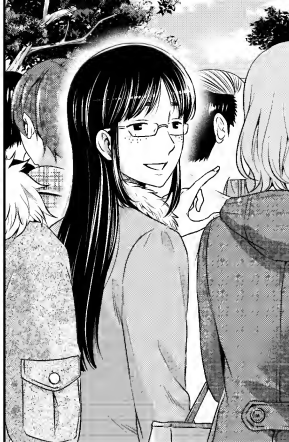


HUH...?



!











THE FUTURE
LOOKS DARK
FOR BOTH
JAPAN AND
WOMANKIND.

SIGH...
ARE YOU ONE
OF THOSE
SO-CALLED
BETA MALES?

THE END
TIMES ARE
UPON US.

WHAT
DOES
SHE
WANT
FROM
ME?

NOPE.

I'M REALLY
NOT IN THAT
KINDA MOOD
RIGHT NOW.

JUST TO
CLARIFY,

YOU'RE NOT
GETTING
TURNED ON
BY THIS OR
ANYTHING,
ARE YOU?

HUH
?!

I DIDN'T
SAY
ANYTHING
LIKE
THAT!

ARE YOU
TRYING
TO SAY
I'M NOT
SEXY?!

STANDS
OUT,
HUH?

BUT
WHAT WAS
FATHER
WEARING
AGAIN?

MOM'S
WEARING
AN ORANGE
COAT, SO
SHE'S EASY
TO FIND,

ANYTHING
THAT
STANDS
OUT
ABOUT
YOUR
PARENTS
?

LIKE A
HAT OR
THE COLOR
OF THEIR
CLOTHES
...

I'M PRETTY
SURE HE
HAS A BLACK
DOWN JACKET
ON, SO HE
MIGHT BE
HARDER TO
PICK OUT.





WHAT KIND
OF ANSWER
IS THAT?



WHAT'S
IT
LIKE?

WELL
...

THERE
ARE GOOD
AND BAD
THINGS
TO IT...



HURRY!

HUH?
WAI-

**HEY,
LET ME
DOWN!**



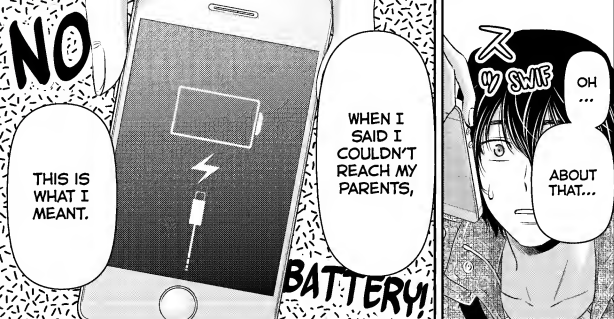
HANG
ON...!

LEMME
USE YOUR
PHONE
BEFORE
YOU GO!



AH!

**THERE
THEY
ARE!**





HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!



IT'S
NATSUO-
KUN!



I LEFT
IT AT
HOME...

DUM-
MY!

WHISPER

WHAT
WERE YOU
DOING? YOU
WOULDN'T
ANSWER
YOUR PHONE.

OUR
PARENTS
WENT
TO BUY
CHARMS.



HEAR,
HEAR!

WHY
DON'T WE
HANG OUT
AFTER
THIS?

HEY,
SINCE
WE'RE
ALL HERE,



WHAT
?

I FINALLY
FOUND
YOU...

WERE YOU
LOST, NAT-
SUO-KUN?



THERE'S
SOMEWHERE
I WANNA GO
AFTER THIS.

SOR-
RY...



NEW
YEAR!

HAPPY



WE
BROUGHT
AMAZAKE!

NICE DIGS,
MR. KIRIYA.

WHA
?!

*SWEET, LOW OR NON-ALCOHOLIC SAKE.



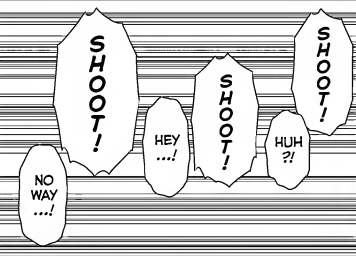
SORRY.
I WANTED TO
BRING OVER MY
FINISHED NOVEL,
BUT EVERYONE
SORT OF
FOLLOWED
ME...

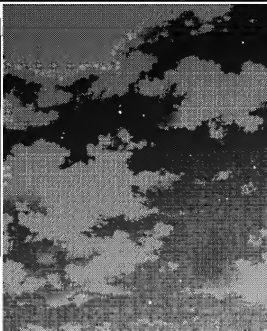
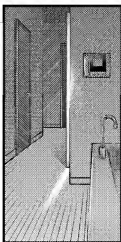
WHAT
ARE
YOU ALL
DOING
HERE?!

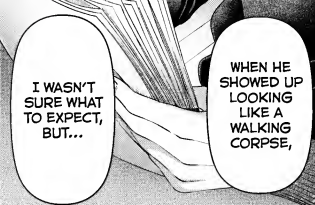
DID
YOU
HAVE TO
COME
ON NEW
YEAR'S
DAY?!











I WASN'T
SURE WHAT
TO EXPECT,
BUT...

WHEN HE
SHOWED UP
LOOKING
LIKE A
WALKING
CORPSE,



"...OF
SADNESS AND
SUFFERING."

"ART IS
BORN
..."



7F
W
O
O
O



WHO'D
HAVE
THOUGHT
...

...IT'D
TURN HIM
INTO A
MONSTER.

DOMEGIRL 4-PANEL THEATER

FORTUNE



APPETITE







OH YEAH.
I GOT A
TEXT FROM
MOMO LAST
NIGHT.

MOMO'S
AND
ASHIHARA-
SAN'S ARE
PRETTY
FITTING.

A Happy
New Year!!

Happy
New Year

Here's to another
good year.
ALEX

AL MADE
HIS WITH
A POTATO
STAMP?
IT SAYS
"HAQQY"
...

HOW OLD-
FASHIONED.

I hope we
can write
more good
stories this
year, as well.
-Ashihara

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
賀
新
年

MOMO GOT
DRUNK ON
AMAZAKE AND
STARTED TAKING
ASHIHARA-SAN'S
CLOTHES OFF,
WHICH SENSEI
WALKED IN ON...

SERI-
OUSLY
?!

WHAT
HAPPENED
AT
SENSEI'S
HOUSE?

I
PASSED
OUT.

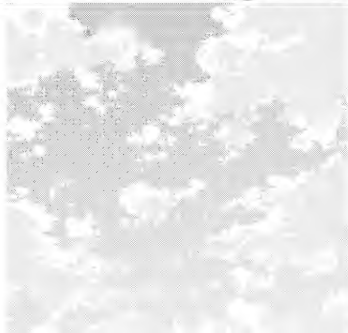
SHE ASKED
ME FOR
ADVICE SINCE
ASHIHARA-
SAN WOULDN'T
TALK TO HER
AFTER WE LEFT
KIRIYA-SENSEI'S
PLACE
YESTERDAY.

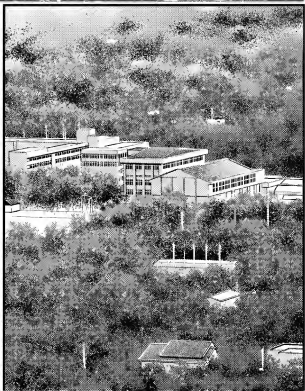
ESPECIALLY
SINCE IT WAS
KIRIYA-SENSEI
OF ALL PEOPLE
WHO SAW...

HA
HA

MOMO'S
DEFINITELY
AT FAULT
THERE.

I DON'T
BLAME
ASHIHARA-
SAN FOR
BEING
MAD.





DID
YOU DO
YOUR
HOME-
WORK?

MORN-
ING.

LONG
TIME
NO
SEE.

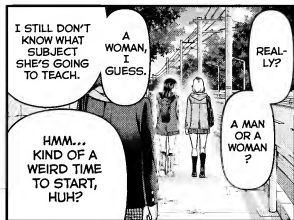


I
WONDER
IF SHE
EVEN
BROUGHT
IT...

MIKA
PROBABLY
FINISHED
ALL HER
HOMEWORK.
WHY DON'T
YOU ASK TO
BORROW
HERS?

I HAVE
CLASS
TOMORROW,
SO I'M GONNA
HAVE TO BLOW
THROUGH
THEM WHEN
I GET HOME
TODAY.

I HAVEN'T
FINISHED
PHYSICS
OR ECON.



I STILL DON'T
KNOW WHAT
SUBJECT
SHE'S GOING
TO TEACH.

A
WOMAN,
I
GUESS.

REAL-
LY?

A MAN
OR A
WOMAN
?

HMM...
KIND OF A
WEIRD TIME
TO START,
HUH?

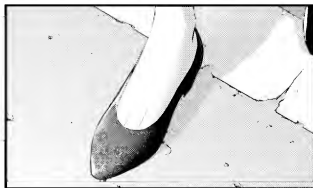


APPAR-
ENTLY,
WE'RE
GETTING
A NEW
TEACHER.



OH,

DID YOU
HEAR?



WONDER
IF IT'S
"COMPLI-
CATED."







G' MORN'ING!

HONESTLY,
JUST THINKING
ABOUT ENGLISH
CLASS KINDA
HURTS.

た TAP
た TAP
っ



ALL YOU
CAN DO
IS APOLO-
GIZE...

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

LOOK,
MOMO.
SPEAK
OF THE
DEVIL.

OH!



UGH
...

WAY
TO BE A
DOWNER
ON THE
FIRST
DAY OF
SCHOOL.

NOT YET.
SHE WON'T
ANSWER
ANY OF MY
CALLS OR
TEXTS...

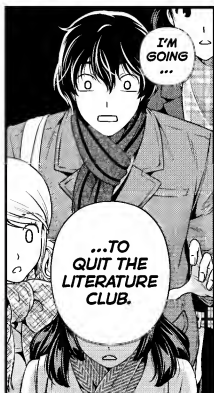
OH, YEAH.
DID YOU
MAKE UP
WITH
ASHIHARA-
SAN?

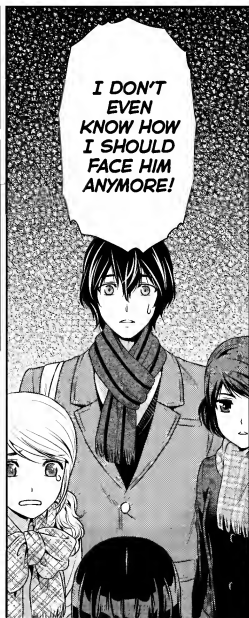
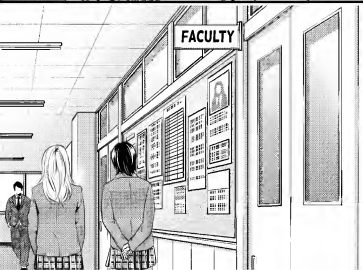


I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
GUYS
SINCE NEW
YEAR'S!

HOW
HAVE
YOU
BEEN?

NOT
TOO
BAD.







...FOR
WHAT
WE DID.

WE'RE
VERY
SORRY
...



SHE SAID
SHE WANTS
TO QUIT THE
CLUB FOR ALL
THE TROUBLE
WE CAUSED
YOU.

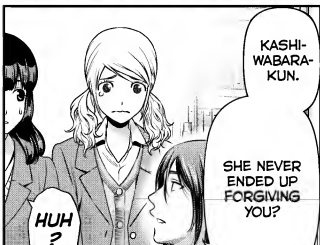
FINAL
?



AS THE
CLUB
PRESIDENT,
I'M ASHAMED
OUR
CONDUCT
...

...AFTER WE
BARGED INTO
YOUR HOME
THE OTHER
DAY.

AT THE VERY
LEAST, I
WANTED TO
APOLOGIZE
AS MY FINAL
ACT...



KASHI-
WABARA-
KUN.

SHE NEVER
ENDED UP
FORGIVING
YOU?

HUH
?



SHE SAID
THAT IF MY
OPINION
OF ANYONE
SHOULD
SUFFER,
THEN IT
SHOULD
BE HERS
AND HERS
ALONE.

SHE
APOLOGIZED
PROFUSELY
FOR HER
DRUNKEN
BEHAVIOR,

AND TRIED
TO TAKE ALL
THE BLAME
FOR WHAT
HAPPENED
THE PREVI-
OUS DAY.

KASHIWA-
BARA-KUN
DROPPED BY
AGAIN THE
DAY AFTER
NEW YEAR'S.



NOT THAT I
HAVE A POOR
OPINION OF
ANY OF YOU.

WELL,



THE
MEMBERS
AND I HAVE
GREAT FAITH
IN YOU,

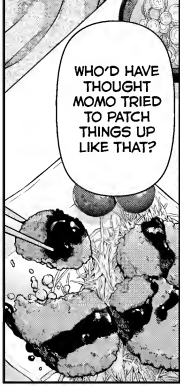
PRESI-
DENT.



SO,
THERE'S
NO REASON
FOR YOU
TO BE
CONCERNED
ABOUT IT,
ASHIHARA-
KUN.

PLEASE
DON'T SAY
YOU'LL QUIT
THE CLUB.

OKAY!



WHO'D HAVE
THOUGHT
MOMO TRIED
TO PATCH
THINGS UP
LIKE THAT?



NOT YET.

HE SAID
HE WANTS
TO HOLD ON
TO IT FOR
A LITTLE
LONGER.

OH, YEAH.
HAVE YOU
GOTTEN
SENSEI'S
FEEDBACK
ON YOUR
NOVEL YET?

SHE
PROBABLY
REALLY
REGRETTED
WHAT HAP-
PENED.

SHE WAS
ROOTING FOR
ASHIHARA-
SAN'S CRUSH,
AFTER ALL.

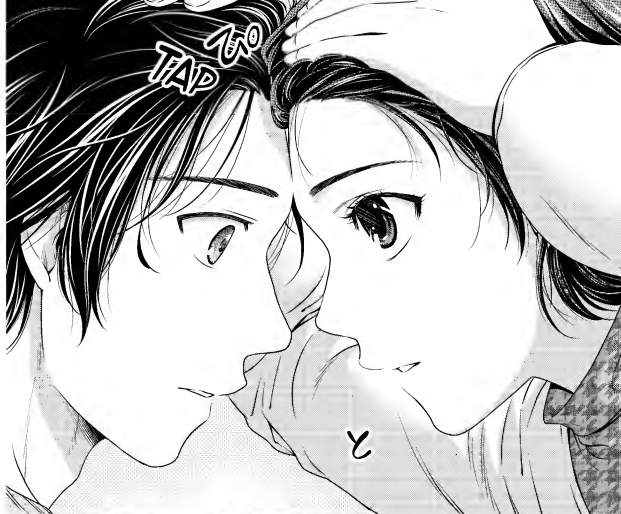
COUGH
COUGH

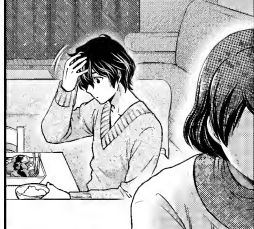
HE
SEEMED
PRETTY
BUSY,

SO
MAYBE HE
HASN'T
READ IT
YET...

WELL,
I'M JUST
GLAD THEY
MADE UP.









I'D
PROBABLY
STILL BE
SHUT UP
IN MY
ROOM.

IF YOU
HADN'T
BEEN
LOOKING
OUT FOR
ME,



...
NAH.



HEY.

I'VE BEEN
THINKING.

I'M REALLY
GRATEFUL.

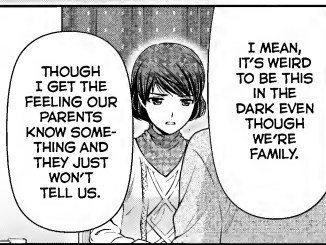


WHY
DON'T
WE...

...GO
LOOK FOR
HINA-NEE
TOGETHER?



CHAPTER 69: NATSUO'S RESOLVE



THOUGH
I GET THE
FEELING OUR
PARENTS
KNOW SOME-
THING AND
THEY JUST
WON'T
TELL US.

I MEAN,
IT'S WEIRD
TO BE THIS
IN THE
DARK EVEN
THOUGH
WE'RE
FAMILY.



HUH
...?



SO
...



HUH?

THANKS
FOR
DINNER.



NAH.

COUNT
ME OUT.



YEAH,

BUT
...

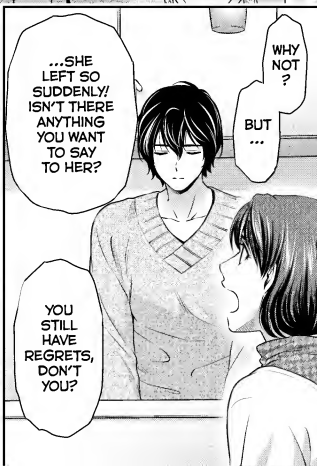
WELL,



ANY-
WAY,

I'M FINE.

BUT
?



...SHE
LEFT SO
SUDDENLY!
ISN'T THERE
ANYTHING
YOU WANT
TO SAY
TO HER?

WHY
NOT
?

BUT
...

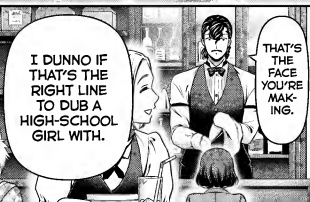
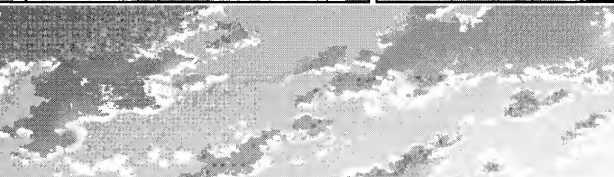
YOU
STILL
HAVE
REGRETS,
DON'T
YOU?



JUST
LEAVE THE
DISHES IN
THE SINK.

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
FINE?

I'LL
DO THEM
AFTER
I TAKE
A BATH.



I DUNNO IF
THAT'S THE
RIGHT LINE
TO DUB A
HIGH-SCHOOL
GIRL WITH.

THAT'S
THE
FACE
YOU'RE
MAK-
ING.



THERE'S
NO WAY
HE'S
ALREADY
OVER
HER.

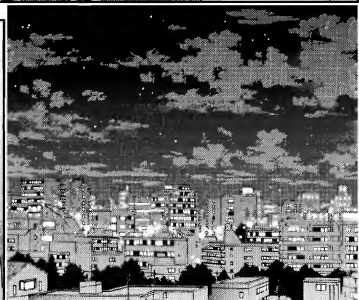
WELL,

I REALLY
DON'T
GET IT.



"I CAN'T
FATHOM
IT."







OH, MY.
GREET-
ING ME
AT THE
DOOR?
HOW
SWEET.

I HEARD
YOUR
HIGH
HEELS
CLACK-
ING.



WEL-
COME
BACK.



THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANTED TO
ASK YOU...



I TOLD
YOU BE-
FORE.

...

SHE
CALLED
ME FROM A
WITHHELD
NUMBER,
BUT
WOULDN'T
TELL ME
WHERE
SHE WAS.



YOU
KNOW
SOME-
THING,
DON'T
YOU,
MOM?

ABOUT
HINA-
NEE
...



...BUT HINA'S
A GROWN
WOMAN. I'M
SURE SHE
HAD HER
REASONS FOR
DOING WHAT
SHE DID.

HINA TOLD
US NOT
TO WORRY
ABOUT HER
WHEN SHE
CALLED.

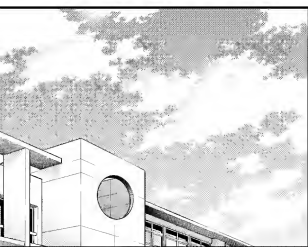
I'M
WORRIED
SICK, OF
COURSE...



THEN WHY
AREN'T YOU
LOOKING
HARDER
FOR HER?

WE'RE
FAMILY,
BUT SHE
JUST UP
AND VAN-
ISHED...

BECAUSE
WE'RE
FAMILY.



BOW.

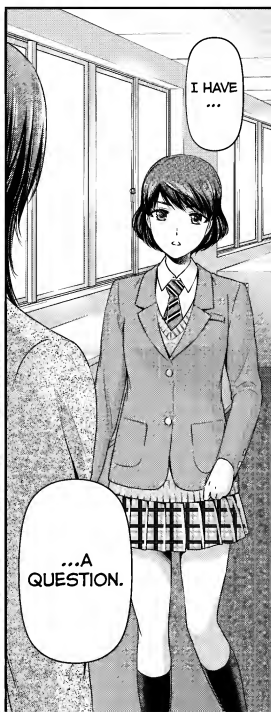
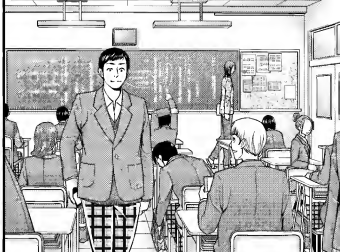
RISE.

THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH!



SO,
AS HER
FAMILY,

I'VE
DECIDED
TO TRUST
HINA AND
WAIT.







TAKE-
UCHI-
SENSEI
...



SURELY
YOU KNOW
SOMETHING.



AS THE
TEACHER
IN CHARGE
OF MY
SCHOOL
YEAR,



WE'RE
ALL VERY
WORRIED
ABOUT
HER.

TO THINK
SHE DIDN'T
EVEN TELL
HER OWN
FAMILY...



I'M
AWARE
THAT
YOU
PROM-
ISED
HER,

BUT
IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU'D
BE TELLING
JUST ANY
OTHER
STUDENT.



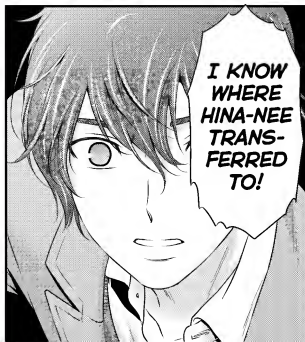
EVEN SO,
TACHIBANA-
SENSEI
ASKED
THAT THE
ARRANGE-
MENT BE
KEPT A
SECRET...



TACHI-
BANA-
SENSEI'S

NEW
SCHOOL
?!







I DON'T
KNOW WHERE
SHE LIVES,
BUT IF WE
SEARCH
NEAR HER
SCHOOL...



LET'S
GO PACK
OUR
BAGS!



HUH
?!

I GOT IT
OUT OF
TAKEUCHI-
SENSEI!



ENOUGH!



WHY
?

...



I
WANT
...

TO SEE
HER, TOO,
Y'KNOW.

BUT
...





IF I GO
LOOKING
FOR HER
THE WAY I
AM NOW,

...IN HER
LETTER,

I'LL JUST
MAKE HER
RESOLVE GO
TO WASTE.

SHE TOLD ME
NOT TO LOOK
FOR HER,
AND THAT SHE
WAS LEAVING
BECAUSE SHE
WANTED MY
DREAM OF
BECOMING A
NOVELIST TO
COME TRUE.

RE-
SOLVE
...

HINA-
NEE'S
...

...

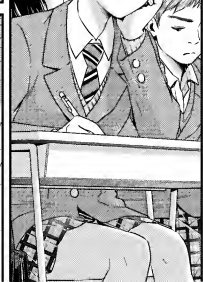
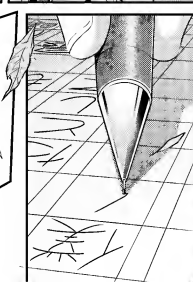
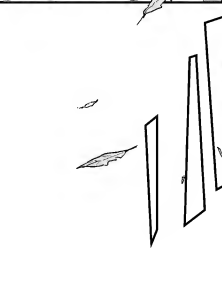
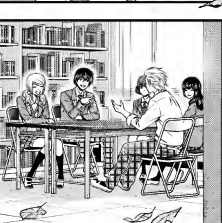
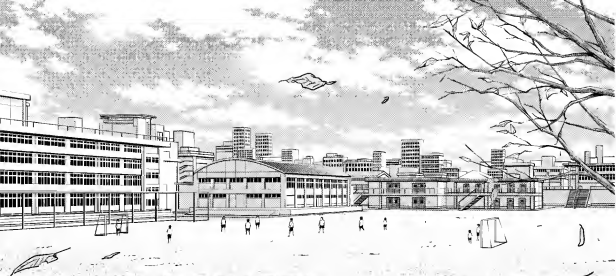
IF I
SEE HER
AGAIN,

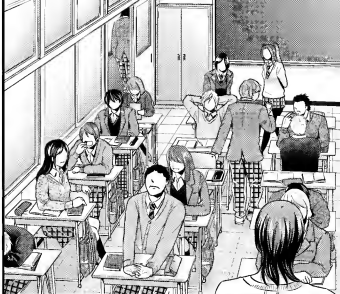
SORRY.

...FOR
LOOKING
OUT
FOR ME,
THOUGH.

THANKS
...

IT SHOULD
BE WHEN
I'M READY
TO.





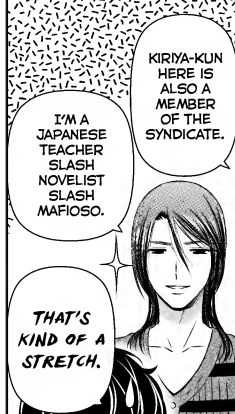






CHAPTER 70: TURNING POINT





I'M A
JAPANESE
TEACHER
SLASH
NOVELIST
SLASH
MAFIOSO.

KIRIYA-KUN
HERE IS
ALSO A
MEMBER
OF THE
SYNDICATE.

THAT'S
KIND OF A
STRETCH.

THE TRUTH IS,
I'M ACTUALLY A
MEMBER OF AN
UNDERWORLD
SYNDICATE THAT
HAS ALL OF
JAPAN UNDER
ITS THUMB.

I WAS
ORDERED
TO PROCURE
ONE PERSON
TO BE
SOLD ON
THE BLACK
MARKET.



WELL, I
CAN'T
BLAME
YOU FOR
BEING
SKEPTI-
CAL.



IF YOU
DON'T NEED
ANYTHING,
THEN I'M
GONNA
EXCUSE
MYSELF!



WHAT'S
THE DEAL?
FIRST
YOU CALL
ME OVER
THEN BEAT
AROUND
THE BUSH
...



HM?

AND I'M
ASKING
WHAT
YOU WANT
TO TALK
ABOUT!

YOU'VE
JUST BEEN
MESSING
WITH
ME THE
WHOLE-

CLINK
≡#>≡

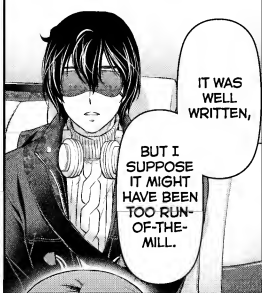


C'MON,
DON'T
BE SO
PRICKLY!

LET'S
TALK
FOR A
WHILE,
OKAY?







IT WAS
WELL
WRITTEN,

BUT I
SUPPOSE
IT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
TOO RUN-
OF-THE-
MILL.



MAYBE...

...IT'S
HOPELESS,
AFTER ALL.



OKAY.

I'M
TAKING
THE BLIND-
FOLD
OFF.

IF I'M THIS
POWERLESS,
THEN...

HERE
WE ARE.

GET
OUT,
PLEASE.

WATCH
YOUR
STEP.

I KNOW
SIMPLY
BEING
PASSIONATE
ISN'T
ENOUGH.

BUT IF THIS
IS HOW
THINGS TURN
OUT EVEN
WITH KIRIYA-
SENSEI'S
GUIDANCE...



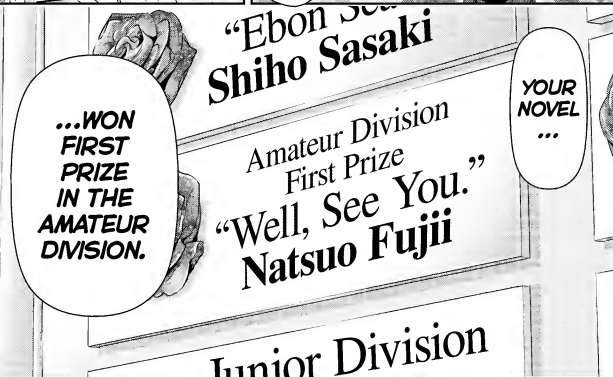
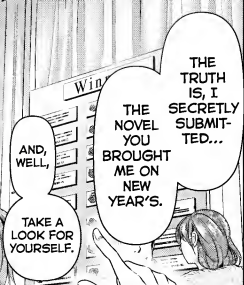
MY ONLY
HOPE
...

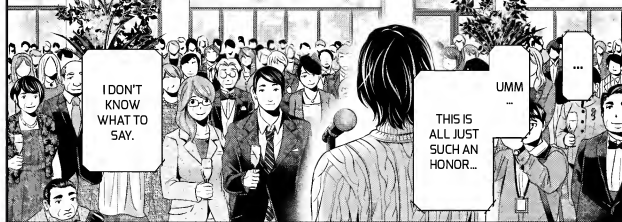
IS THAT
YOU MAKE
YOUR
DREAM OF
BECOMING
A NOVELIST
COME
TRUE.

I LOST HINA
WHILE CHASING
AFTER THIS
DREAM...

77TH
SHINKOSHA LITERARY AWARD CEREMONY







I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY.

THIS IS
ALL JUST
SUCH AN
HONOR...

UMM
...

...



THAT I WAS ABLE
TO WRITE IT TO
COMPLETION.

IT WAS ONLY
WITH THE
COURAGE AND
SUPPORT OF
THOSE
CLOSEST
TO ME...

THIS NOVEL
...

ISN'T THE
PRODUCT
OF MY
EFFORT
ALONE.



CLAP
/o/ 4

CLAP
/o/ 4

CLAP
/o/ 4

CLAP
/o/ 4

CLAP
/o/ 4



BUT
FOR THE
PEOPLE WHO
SUPPORTED
ME, AS
WELL...

I'LL WORK
HARD TO
FOLLOW MY
DREAM OF
BECOMING A
NOVELIST!

TO BE
HONEST,

I'M NOT SURE
IF I'LL EVER
BE ABLE TO
WRITE
ANOTHER
STORY
LIKE IT.

First Division
Well, See You."
Natsuo Fuji

WINNING
SUCH A
PRESTIGIOUS
AWARD MAY
HAVE BEEN
A COMPLETE
FLUKE,



MAKE NO
MISTAKE,

THAT NOVEL
WAS BORN
FROM YOUR
HEART.

...WINNING
THIS
AWARD
WAS NO
FLUKE.



THAT WAS
A NICE
SPEECH.

WELL
DONE.

HOW-
EVER
...



IT'S A TAD
LATE FOR
FORMAL
INTRO-
DUCTIONS,
BUT...

ALSO,

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH...

...



HE'LL BE IN
CHARGE OF
YOU FROM
NOW ON.



I OWE
HIM A LOT
FROM MY
AMATEUR
DAYS.

THIS
MAN
...

IS
TSUTAYA-
SAN, AN
EDITOR
FOR SHIN-
KOSHA'S
LITERARY
DEPART-
MENT.



THAT'S
CUTE,
RUI-RUI.



MMM
...

PASS.

WHY
DON'T
YOU TRY
IT ON?



WHAAAT?
WHY
NOT?

FRILLY
CLOTHES
DON'T
REALLY
SUIT ME.

IT'S
CUTE,
BUT,



IT'S
YOUR
COLOR,
TOO.



I FOUND
SOMETHING
AWESOME WHILE
DOING END-
OF-THE-YEAR
CLEANING!



HEY!

WANT TO
STOP
BY MY
PLACE ON
THE WAY
BACK?



BUT
...



P H E E W.

I'M
EXHAUSTED
FROM TALKING
TO SO MANY
IMPORTANT-
LOOKING
PEOPLE.



KIRIYA-KUN'S
TOLD ME ALL
ABOUT YOUR
HOPES OF
GOING PRO.

SORRY TO
SURPRISE
YOU LIKE
THAT.



Amateur Division
First Prize
"Well, See You."
Natsuo Fujii



FUJII-
SENSEI!



LET'S WORK
TOGETHER
TO CREATE
SOME REAL
MASTER-
PIECES,

I'LL BE
COUNTING
ON YOU!



AHH...
THIS ISN'T
A DREAM,
RIGHT?

WRITING IT
WAS PAINFUL,
BUT I'M GLAD
I PUSHED
THROUGH!



I'M IN
YOUR
CARE!



CONGRATU-
LATIONS!

THAT'S
AMAZ-
ING!

THIS IS
WONDER-
FUL!



HOW
GREAT
WOULD
THAT
BE?

IF ONLY
I COULD
TELL HINA
FIRST.



I BET...

...SHE'D
BE EVEN
HAPPIER
THAN ME.

NATSUO-
KUN!



I'VE JUST
NOW MADE MY
WAY TO THE
STARTING LINE...

I'M
HO-



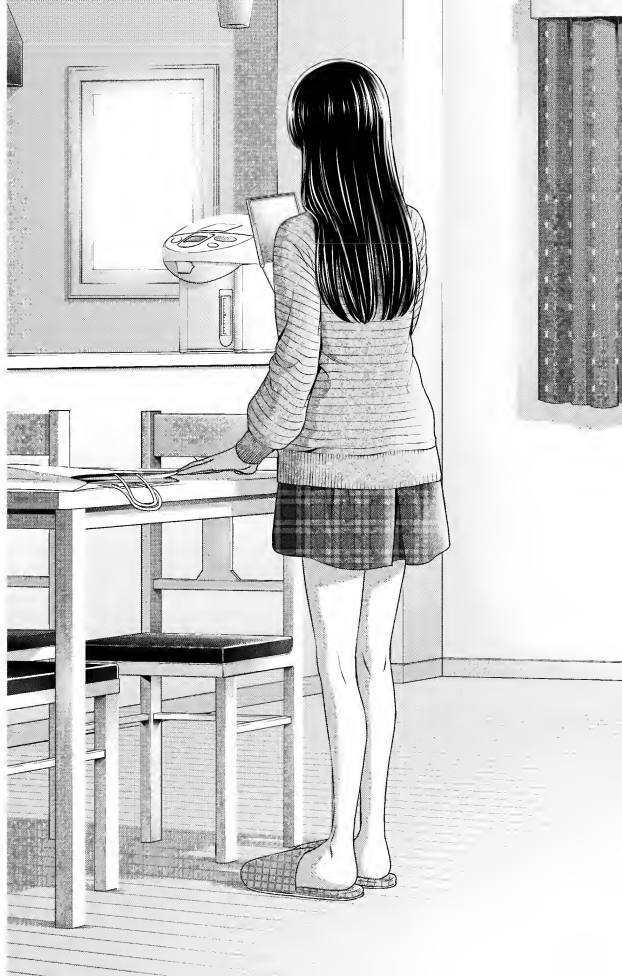
...

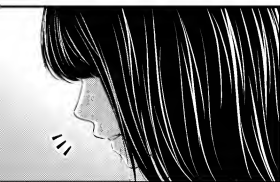
GUESS
THAT'S STILL
OUT OF THE
QUESTION...



LET'S GO
ALL OUT
TONIGHT!

YOU
DESERVE
IT!





HI...NA!





HINA
...!



...HOW
BADLY I
WANTED
TO SEE
YOU!

YOU
HAVE
NO
IDEA
...

I
MISSED
YOU SO
MUCH
...



YOU HEAR
WHAT
HAPPENED
TODAY.

WAIT
UNTIL
...

THERE'S
SO MUCH
I WANT TO
TELL YOU.



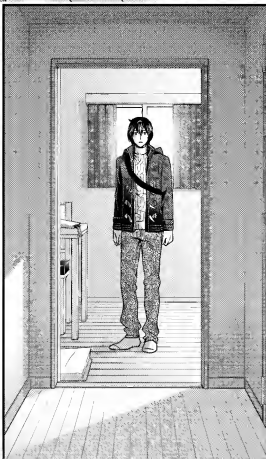
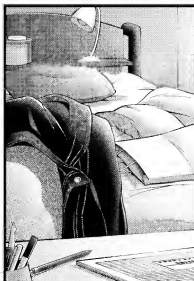
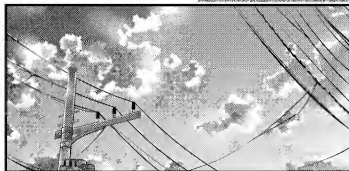
I WON'T
ASK...

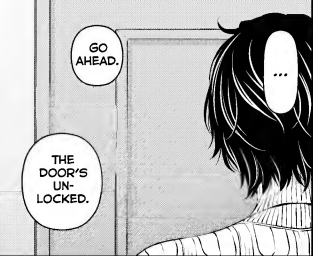
...WHERE
YOU'RE
LIVING
NOW OR
ANYTHING
LIKE
THAT.



CHAPTER 71:
CELEBRATION









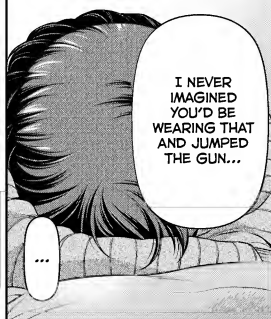


WIG.

...

WHY THE
HAIR-
PIECE?

OKAY
WHY
THE
WIG?



I NEVER
IMAGINED
YOU'D BE
WEARING THAT
AND JUMPED
THE GUN...

...



SHE
SAID IT
CHANGED
MY VIBE AND
WOULD GIVE
ME MORE
OUTFIT
OPTIONS.

WE
STOPPED
BY HER
PLACE ON
THE WAY
BACK AND
SHE LENT
IT TO ME.

I GUESS SHE
REMEMBERED
THAT I
MENTIONED
GROWING MY
HAIR OUT.

I WENT
SHOP-
PING
WITH
MOMO
TODAY.



OH,
YEAH.

I HAVE
SOMETHING
TO TELL
YOU.



...



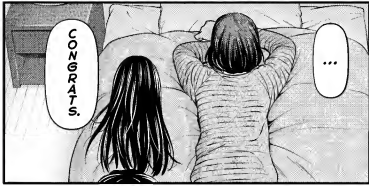
ARE YOU
GONNA
GROW IT
OUT?

I DUNNO.



**...WON
FIRST PRIZE
IN THE
SHINKOSHA
LITERARY
AWARD.**

**THE
NOVEL
I WROTE
DURING
WINTER
BREAK
...**



CONGRATS.

...



**BELIEVE ME,
I CAN STILL
BARELY
BELIEVE IT
MYSELF.**

**I'M NOT
PULLING
YOUR
LEG.**



**I GOT
PRIZE
MONEY,
TOO.**

**A
WHOPPING
300,000
YEN*!
ISN'T THAT
NUTS?**

*APPROX. 3,000 USD.



**APPARENTLY,
KIRIYA-SENSEI
SUBMITTED
IT WITHOUT
TELLING ME.**



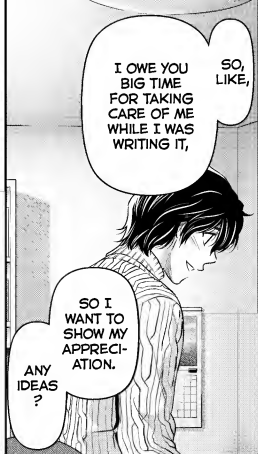


IT CAN BE
SOMETHING
FAIRLY
EXPENSIVE
IF YOU
WANT.



THEN
...

...



I OWE YOU
BIG TIME
FOR TAKING
CARE OF ME
WHILE I WAS
WRITING IT,

SO,
LIKE,

SO I
WANT TO
SHOW MY
APPRECI-
ATION.

ANY
IDEAS
?

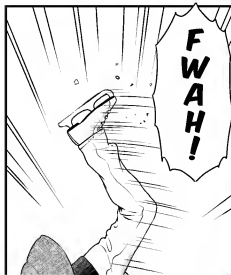


DO
WHATEVER
I SAY
FOR THE
WHOLE
DAY.

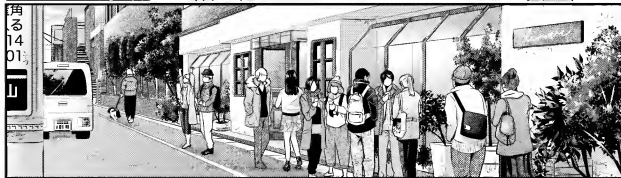
...SINCE
TOMOR-
ROW'S
SUNDAY,

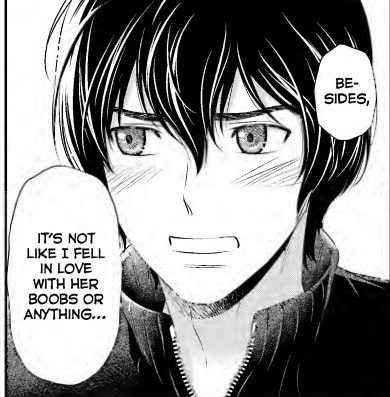












BE-
SIDES,

IT'S NOT
LIKE I FELL
IN LOVE
WITH HER
BOOBS OR
ANYTHING...



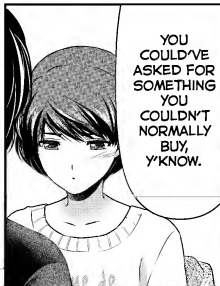
BUT ALL WE
DID WAS GO
SKATING AND
LINE UP FOR
WAFFLES.

IT'S SO
NORMAL IT'S
ALMOST A
LET-DOWN.

WHEN YOU
SAID, "DO
WHATEVER
I SAY FOR
A DAY," I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE GONNA
MAKE ME DO
SOMETHING
CRAZY,



...
NORMAL'S
FINE.



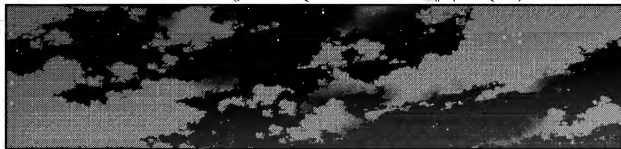
YOU
COULD'VE
ASKED FOR
SOMETHING
YOU
COULDN'T
NORMALLY
BUY,
Y'KNOW.



I'M
KINDA
SUR-
PRISED.

I
GOTTA
SAY,

ABOUT
WHAT?





CONGRAT-
ULATIONS
ON YOUR
AWARD!

NAT-
SUO!



WHA
?!



THANKS...

TH-



WOW
...!

WE
PREPARED
A BIG
FEAST,

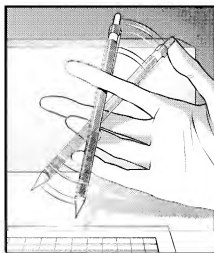
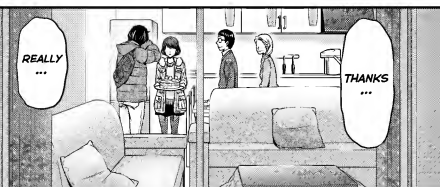
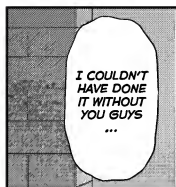
SO EAT
PLENTY,
OKAY?

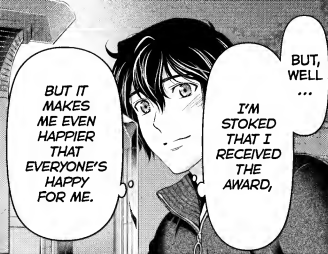
YOU
RECEIVED
SUCH A
PRESTIGIOUS
AWARD, SO
WE HAVE TO
CELEBRATE
BIG TIME!

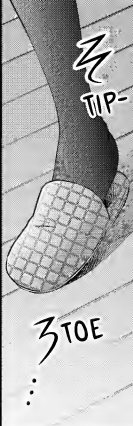
ALSO
...

FIRST
RUI-CHAN,
NOW YOU!
I COULDN'T
BE MORE
PROUD!

WE'RE
HAVING
A PARTY
TONIGHT.







IT'S
STILL
11.



THAT
SPOOKED
ME...

THAT YOU,
RUI?

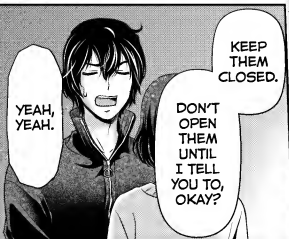
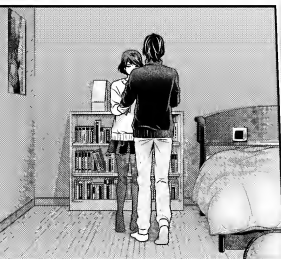
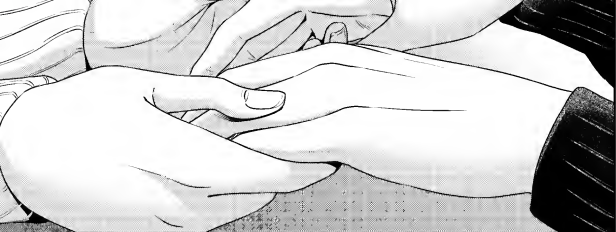


THE
DAY
...

CHAPTER 72: CINDERELLA IN THE SHEETS









JEEZ...

WHAT
WAS
THAT
FOR
?!

I SAID
KEEP
YOUR
EYES
CLOSED.



AAH
...!



NOW,

CLOSE
YOUR
EYES,

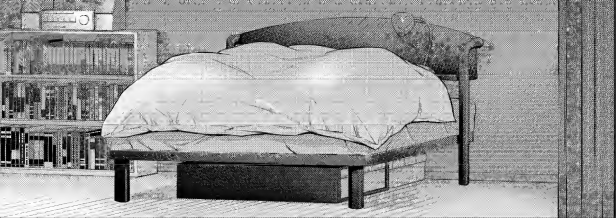
AND
LIE
DOWN.



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
SO TENSE.
I WON'T DO
ANYTHING
WEIRD.



I JUST
WANNA
TALK.







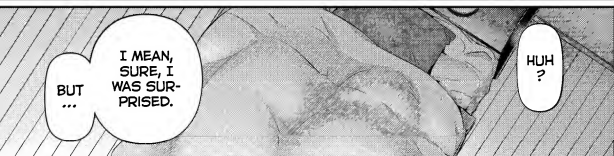
IT WASN'T ...

...

I'M REALLY SORRY FOR SCARING YOU.

I HUGGED YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN, MISTAKENLY, AT THAT.

I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING SURPRISED.



HUH ?

BUT ...

I MEAN, SURE, I WAS SURPRISED.



...

IT WAS CLEAR JUST HOW MUCH YOU MISSED HINA-NEE AND KEPT EVERYTHING BOTTLED UP UNTIL NOW.

YOU LOOKED SO SAD AND MISERABLE THAT...

I JUST STARTING CRYING.



SO DEARLY,



THAT
MADE
ME
FEEL
...

I
THOUGHT,

"OH, THIS
MUST BE
HOW HE
ALWAYS
HUGGED
HINA-NEE."



NEVER
MIND.

...



"LISTEN TO
ANYTHING
YOU SAY
FOR A DAY!"

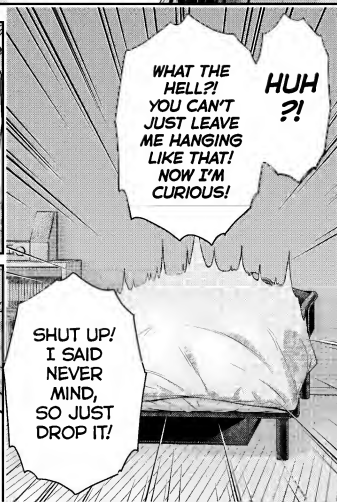
WHAT
WAS
THE
DEAL
?!

GOOD!



NOW IT'S
MY TURN TO
ASK YOU
SOMETHING.

OKAY.



WHAT THE
HELL?!
YOU CAN'T
JUST LEAVE
ME HANGING
LIKE THAT!
NOW I'M
CURIOUS!

HUH
?!

SHUT UP!
I SAID
NEVER
MIND,
SO JUST
DROP IT!





**I DON'T
REMEM-
BER!**

HOW
MANY
TIMES
?



HMM
...

...



WHAT'S
WITH
YOU?!

FINE,
FINE!
YEAH,
WE HAD
SEX!

OH?

YOU DID IT
SO MANY
TIMES YOU
LOST COUNT,
HUH?



SILENCE











NO.



DO YOU
HAVE A
FEVER OR
SOME-
THING?



...
YOU'RE
HOT.



...THE
FIRST
TIME WE
DID IT.

I DIDN'T
THINK
MUCH OF
ANYTHING
...



BUT I
WONDER
...

...IF IT
WOULD
BE ANY
DIFFERENT
NOW.



...THAT
SUP-
POSED
TO
MEAN?

WHAT'S
...



HUH
...?

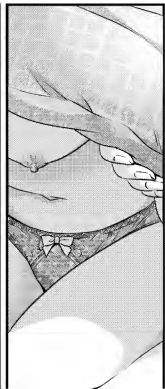


IT'S
YOUR
FAULT,
YOU
KNOW.



...GOING
TO HOLD
BACK FOR
HINA-NEE
ANYMORE.

I'M
NOT
...

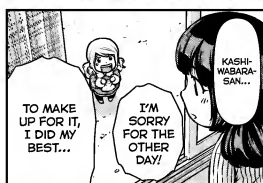
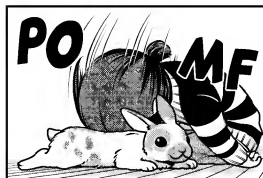
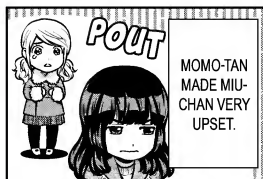


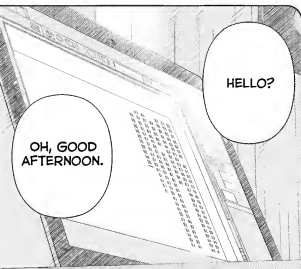




CHAPTER 73: A NEW WIND

DOMEGIRL 4-PANEL THEATER







MY
NEXT
WORK
?

GOOD
QUESTION.
I HAVE A
GENERAL
IDEA
IN MIND,
BUT...

YES.

OH, NO. I'M
HONORED
JUST TO BE
NOMINATED.

IT WAS NICE
TO TALK
TO YOU AT
THE AWARD
CEREMONY
THE OTHER
DAY.



I SWEAR,
HE NEVER
QUITS...

THAT'S
KIND OF
A TOUCHY
TOPIC...

WHO'D YOU
HEAR THAT
FROM? I
BET IT WAS
TSUTAYA-SAN,
HUH?



WE'RE
BACK!

BACK!

WEL-
COME
HOME!



I MEAN, IT'S
DEFINITELY
A UNIQUE
STORY,

BUT MY
FRIENDS
AND FAMILY
WOULD KNOW
IMMEDIATELY
IF I TRIED TO
TURN IT INTO
FICTION.

WRITE
ABOUT
HOW MY
WIFE AND
I GOT
TOGETHER
?!

HUH
?!



MMM...
I CAN'T SAY
ANYTHING AT
THE MOMENT.

I'LL
HAVE TO
TALK TO
MY WIFE
FIRST.

WHY HAVEN'T
THEY TAKEN
THAT DOWN YET?
IT'S ALREADY
A NEW TERM...

CONGRATULATIONS

Shinkosha
Literary Award
Amateur Division First Prize

NATSUO FUJII-KUN

史上
ぼう)

今で勝てない

REMEMBER
HOW THEY REC-
OGNIZED YOUR
ACHIEVEMENT
DURING THE
FIRST ASSEMBLY
OF THE TERM?

EVEN
I FELT
PROUD!

YEAH!
WE CAN USE
IT TO HOOK
FRESHMEN,
TOO. ♪

WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?
YOU'RE THE
PRIDE AND
JOY OF THE
LITERATURE
CLUB!



RESULTS
MAKE FOR
THE BEST
KIND OF
PUBLICITY!

SLIDE

THAT
PROBABLY
HELPED
GET THE
LITERATURE
CLUB'S NAME
OUT THERE,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

Freshmen Welcoming Assembly
Club introduction

OH,
GREAT!

YOU ALL
MADE IT!

I WAS THINKING WE
COULD BRAINSTORM
SOME DIFFERENT
WAYS TO ATTRACT
NEW MEMBERS.

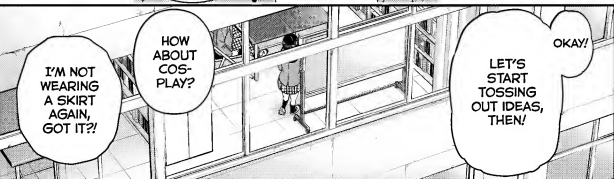
HUH.

YOU'RE
PRETTY
FIRED UP.

NOW THAT
WE'RE
OFFICIALLY
RECOGNIZED
AS A CLUB,
WE GET TO
EXPLAIN
OUR CLUB
ACTIVITIES
ON STAGE.

HEY!

IT'S
ALMOST
RECRUITING
SEASON,
HUH?



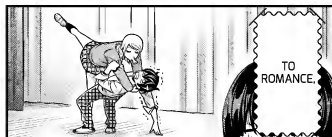


WH-WHILE ...

WE'RE A P-PRETTY SMALL CLUB...



TO ROMANCE.







YOU
THINK
SO?

YOU
...



LEAVING AN
IMPRESSION IS
WHAT MATTERS
MOST! I'M
SURE TONS OF
PEOPLE WILL
COME!

YEAH!
THE
CROWD
LOVED
IT!



AND WE
JAZZED UP
THE CLUB
ROOM
FOR THIS,
RIGHT?

WE HAVE
OUR WALKING
BILLBOARD
HERE, TOO!

I THINK
THEY GOT
THAT IT'S
A NEAT
CLUB.

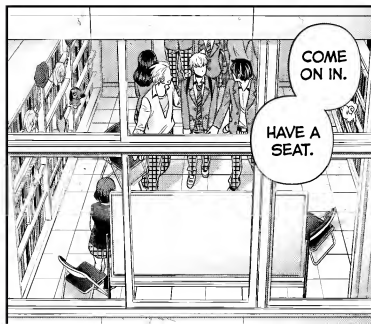
LET'S
STAY
POSITIVE!



YEAH...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I'M THE
PRESIDENT.
I CAN'T
AFFORD
TO GET
DEPRESSED.









AS FOR
AUTHORS,

SUBARU
SHIBASAKI,
CLASS 1-5.

I LIKE
KENZO
KITAKATA,
TOYOKO
YAMASAKI,
AND YOU
HASUKAWA.

A
CONSER-
VATIVE!



MY FAVOR-
ITE SERIES
ARE THE
MELANCHOLY
OF HARUHI
SUZUMIYA,

I'M
RITSUKA
OSAKA
FROM
CLASS
1-1!

AND IF
HER FLAG
BREAKS!

A LIGHT
NOVEL
FAN,
I SEE.



FIRST
...

NEXT,
WE'LL
START
FROM THE
THIRD-
YEARS.



UH-
HUH!

YOU HEAR
THAT? YOU
HASUKAWA.



H-
HEY!

YOU'RE
THE
WINNER,
SEMPAI?

KNOCK
IT OFF!

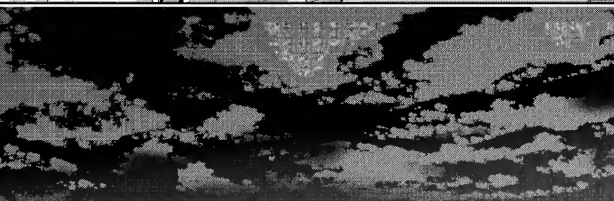
I SAW THE
NOTICE ON
THE BOARD!
THAT'S
AMAZING!



AND
SHINKOSHA
LITERARY
AWARD
WINNER,

...OUR
CLUB'S
ACE,

NATSUO
FUJII!



YOU'RE
PRETTY
MOODY,
TOO.

DON'T
DISS
HIM SO
CASUALLY.

OH,

YOU
MEAN
THE
MOODY
TRYHARD
CONSER-
VATIVE?

PERSONALLY, I
WANT THE BOY
WHO NAMED YOU
HASUKAWA AS ONE
OF HIS FAVORITE
AUTHORS TO JOIN.

UHH
...

IT WAS A
WHILE AFTER
I TRANS-
FERRED, SO
AROUND THE
BEGINNING
OF SUMMER,
I GUESS?

WHEN
EXACTLY
DID YOU
JOIN
AGAIN?

TRUE
...

STILL,
NO NEED
TO RUSH.

THERE
COULD BE
PEOPLE WHO
JOIN IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE TERM
LIKE I DID.

WELL, IT WAS
MORE LIKE
WE "GOT RID
OF THEM" AT
THE TIME.

...WHEN
WE...

...LOST OUR
VIRGINITIES
TOGETHER.

I SEE
...

THEN IT
WAS JUST
AROUND THIS
TIME LAST
YEAR...



UHH.

OH.

NOTHING...



HM?



ARE YOU
GONNA
GROW IT
OUT AFTER
ALL?

YOUR
HAIR'S
GROWN
A BIT.

B-BY
THE
WAY,



AND IF IT
DOESN'T
GET IN THE
WAY, I'LL
PROBABLY
LEAVE IT.

MAYBE
I'LL
JUST
LET IT
GROW
...

OH.

MY
SHOW'S
START-
ING.



MMM.
I'M STILL
ON THE
FENCE.

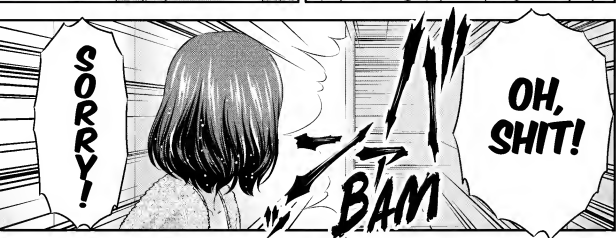
BUT I
DIDN'T
GO LAST
MONTH.

I GET IT
CUT ONCE
EVERY TWO
MONTHS,





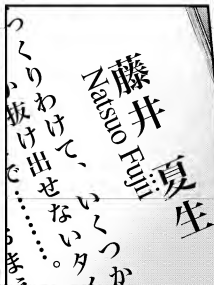






WHY WON'T...

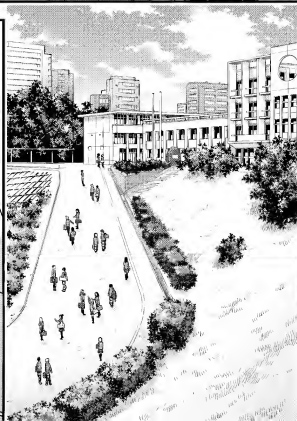
...MY HEART
SETTLE DOWN?





CHAPTER 74: HOSTILITY









WHA—

WOULDN'T
CALL
THEM-
SELVES
NOVEL
ENTHUSI-
ASTS.



I
REALLY
WISH
LIGHT-
NOVEL-
READING
PLEBS
...



THERE
ARE
PLENTY
OF GOOD
LIGHT
NOVELS.

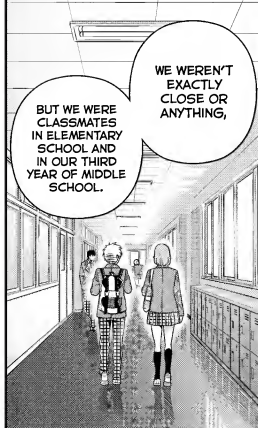
THAT IS
PRETTY
HARSH.

RIGHT?!
IT'S WRONG
TO DIS-
CRIMINATE
AGAINST
A WHOLE
GENRE!

CAN YOU
BELIEVE
THAT?!



...AND
THAT'S
WHAT HE
SAID!



BUT WE WERE CLASSMATES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND IN OUR THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WE WEREN'T EXACTLY CLOSE OR ANYTHING,



SO TRY NOT TO LET HIM GET TO YOU, OKAY?

BUT... I THINK HE'S PROBABLY JUST ON EDGE BECAUSE SCHOOL JUST STARTED.



HUH?

DID YOU KNOW HIM BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL, KABASAWA-SAN?



CLEANING THE COURTYARD TOOK A WHILE.

WHAT TOOK YOU?

WE WERE JUST COMING UP WITH NICKNAMES FOR THE FIRST-YEARS!



OH.

EVERYONE'S HERE.



I BEGGED
HER TO
CHANGE IT!

RIKKUN
FOR RITSU
OSAKA.

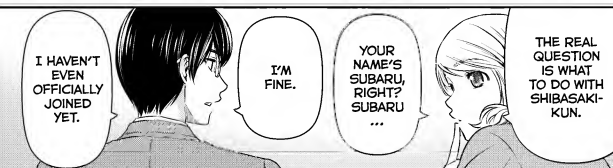
I WANTED
TO GO WITH
"CHERRY,"
SINCE OSAKA
IS WRITTEN
WITH THE
CHARACTER
FOR SAKURA,
THOUGH.

THAT
WAS
CLOSE
...



KABASAWA-
SAN IS
FUMIN, FROM
FUMINO.

SOUNDS
LIKE A
NAME
MOMO
WOULD
THINK
UP.



I HAVEN'T
EVEN
OFFICIALLY
JOINED
YET.

I'M
FINE.

YOUR
NAME'S
SUBARU,
RIGHT?
SUBARU
...

THE REAL
QUESTION
IS WHAT
TO DO WITH
SHIBASAKI-
KUN.



YOU'VE
RECEIVED
A NUMBER
OF THEM
YOURSELF,
HAVEN'T YOU,
SHIBASAKI-
KUN?



DOES
THIS CLUB
SUBMIT
WORKS
FOR ANY
PUBLISHER
AWARDS?

MORE
IMPOR-
TANTLY,

OH!

REAL-
LY?!



OH,
YEAH.

SPEAK-
ING OF
AWARDS
...

UH-
HUH.

WE DID ONCE
BEFORE AFTER
OUR ADVISOR,
KIRIYA-SENSEI,
SUGGESTED
IT.



SO, I
LOOKED
THROUGH
SOME
MAGAZINES
AT HOME,

WHEN
I HEARD
YOUR NAME
YESTERDAY,
I THOUGHT I
RECOGNIZED
IT FROM
SOMEWHERE.

I
KNEW
IT!

WELL
...

HUH?
REALLY
?!



Amazing! WHOOOA!
ALL
THESE?!

YOU'RE A
REGULAR
IN THE
STUDENT
DIVISION,
HUH?

THE
NUMBER
OF SUBMIS-
SIONS YOU
MADE LAST
YEAR IS
ASTOUND-
ING.

Subaru Shibasaki
"Tail Light"
Nanami Nishino
"Scars"
Tadahiko Shiashi
"Death of Rebirth"
Kaoru Hikawa

Subaru
Shibasaki

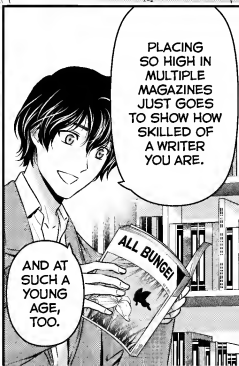
14th Wakaba Literary Award
Special Prize
"Song of
Heavens"
Kohei

AND I WAS
SHOCKED TO
FIND YOU'VE WON
AWARDS IN ALL
SORTS OF
MAGAZINES.



I HAVE
A LOT TO
LEARN
FROM
YOU.

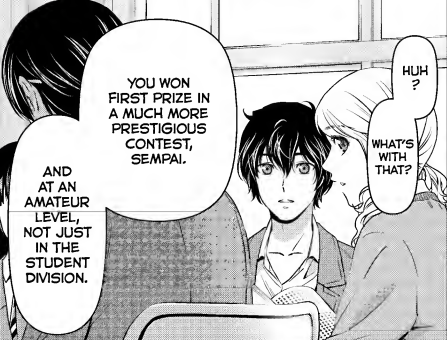
THAT'S
REALLY
SOME-
THING!



PLACING
SO HIGH IN
MULTIPLE
MAGAZINES
JUST GOES
TO SHOW HOW
SKILLED OF
A WRITER
YOU ARE.

AND AT
SUCH A
YOUNG
AGE,
TOO.

ALL BUNGEI



YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO SNAP
AT SEMPAI
LIKE THAT!

WHY ARE
YOU SO
ANGRY?

HEY
...!

WAIT,
SHIBASAKI-
KUN!

SURE
ENOUGH,
HE'S JUST
ANOTHER
SHALLOW
CLOWN.

I JUST
WANTED TO
KNOW WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON
THE WINNER
OF THAT
AWARD WAS.

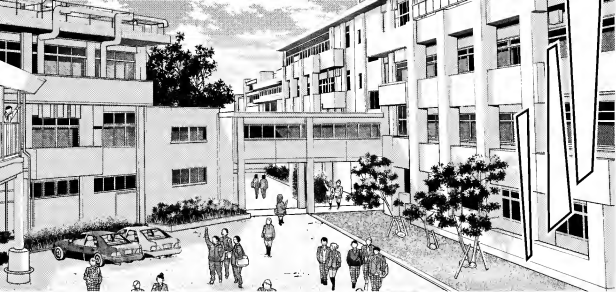
I NEVER HAD
ANY INTENTION
OF GETTING
CHUMMY WITH
EVERYONE.

FRANKLY,

I DON'T
SEE ANY
POINT IN
JOINING.

THEIR
ANTHOLOGY
WAS CRUDE
AT BEST,
TOO.

THEY
CAN PUT
LITERATURE
IN THEIR
NAME ALL
THEY WANT,
IN THE END,
THEY'RE JUST
ANOTHER
BEST-FRIENDS
CLUB.



I THOUGHT
ABOUT IT ALL
NIGHT, BUT I
STILL DON'T
GET IT.

HMM
...

IS IT
REALLY
THAT
SIMPLE?

FOR
SOME
REASON,
IT FEELS
LIKE HE'S
KINDA
HOSTILE
TOWARD
ME.

MAYBE
HE'S JUST
NEUROTIC?

WHAT DID
I SAY THAT
RUBBED HIM
THE WRONG
WAY?



MAN,
WHAT IF HE
DOESN'T
COME
ANYMORE
THANKS
TO THAT?

GRRR!



NO SIGN
OF HIM...
Y'THINK IT
REALLY IS
MY FAULT?

HE
MIGHT
COME
LATER.

AND IF THAT
WAS ENOUGH
TO MAKE HIM
QUIT, THEN
HE WOULD'VE
SOONER
OR LATER.



OH.

LOOKS
LIKE
WE'RE
FIRST.



WH-
WHAT?

SLIGH
YOU
STILL
CAN'T
LOOK
AT ME?



WELL,

EVEN IF
HE DOES
SHOW,

I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT I
SHOULD
SAY TO
HIM.



YOU WERE
UNEXPECTEDLY
TURNED ON
BY MY NAKED
BODY.

DON'T
TELL
ME...

WHA—



YOU DIDN'T
LET IT BOTHER
YOU THIS
MUCH THE
LAST TIME YOU
WALKED IN
ON ME IN THE
BATHROOM.

WHAT'S
WITH
YOU?

YOU GO
STRAIGHT
TO YOUR
ROOM
AFTER
DINNER
LATELY,
TOO.



...I
REMINDED
YOU OF
HINA-NEE?

OR
MAYBE
...



I WONDER
WHAT...

...
SHE'S
UP TO.



...

IT'D BE GREAT IF WE AT LEAST KNEW HER EMAIL.

FOR STARTERS, I WONDER IF SHE'S SETTLED IN AT HER NEW SCHOOL.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT SENSEI, TOO,

I JUST HOPE SHE'S DOING ALL RIGHT...

...
GOOD QUESTION.

EVERYTHING SENSEI DID WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.

IT'LL BE A DISASTER IF WORD GETS OUT THE REASON SHE TRANSFERRED IS BECAUSE THE SCHOOL FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP.

IT'S ONE THING AT HOME, BUT WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT TALKING ABOUT SENSEI AT SCHOOL.

BUT LET'S DROP THIS TOPIC FOR NOW.

TH-

...!

THAT'S ...

ARE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP WAITING...

YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY.

WHAT IF SHE NEVER COMES BACK?

...FOR HINA-NEE FOREVER?

LET ME ASK YOU ONE MORE THING.

THEN BEFORE THE OTHERS GET HERE,









HUH ?

I'M JUST
SORT OF
CURIOUS.

I THOUGHT
MAYBE YOU
USED AN EX-
GIRLFRIEND
AS A MODEL.



THE
PIECE YOU
WON FIRST
PRIZE
WITH...

DID YOU
BASE THE
HEROINE OFF
OF ANYONE?



I HAVEN'T
DECIDED
YET.

I JUST
HAVE
SOMETHING
I WANTED
TO ASK
FUJII-
SEMPAI.



SOME-
ONE...

...YOU USED
TO DATE
FROM THIS
SCHOOL, BY
CHANCE?

...to be continued.



THE
TRICK TO
TURNING
THEM
BACK...

...IS
CANDY
?

EXTRA MANGA SWEET HOME MAGIC

★ THE STORY SO FAR ★

HINA AND RUI HAVE REVERTED TO
CHILDREN AFTER TAKING A STRANGE DRUG. IN A BIND,
NATSUO ASKS L'AMANT'S OWNER FOR HELP...



THE
WORD OF
THE GOD
OF MANGA
IS ABSO-
LUTE!

AREN'T YOU
THINKING
OF OOMU
TEZUKA'S
MARVELOUS
MEOMO?



GRRP

むく

GRRP

むく

GRRP

I'M SURE
THEY'LL
TURN BACK
IN NO TIME
AS SOON
AS...

GRRP

むく



RED CANDY
TURNS A
BUTTERFLY
BACK INTO
AN EGG.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

BLUE CANDY
TURNS BABIES
INTO ADULTS.
THAT'S HOW IT'S
ALWAYS BEEN.

AHH.



Domestic Girlfriend 8

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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